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Editorial Page of The Capital Journal

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THOSE CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Elsewhere in this issue of the Capital Journal is printed the three proposed amendments to the city charter. It is necessary to vote affirmatively on all of them to make the city safe in its street improvements; and a careful inspection is suggested by voters so that they may vote intelligently on all of them. There is an idea prevalent in some quarters that the "reassessment" of costs means that those who have paid will be required to pay over again. There is of course, no foundation for such a belief. The measure specifically states that where payments have been made they shall be credited on the reassessment as of the date they were made. The object of the reassessment is not to make those who have paid pay again, but to make those who have not paid put up their share. If this is not done then the city will have to pay the entire sum, with the result that those who have already paid will have to pay increased taxes to pay for those who have benefitted by the improvements but have not paid. The city has the bill to pay for all unpaid street improvements, unless the property owners along the improved streets pay their portion. This means the whole city would be taxed to pay for the unpaid portions of the paved streets. This would mean further that the Richardson bill providing for bonding the city to repay those who had paid, and so throw the cost of paving certain streets on the entire taxable property, or some similar measure would be necessary. This would lead to another result which would be that those living on unpaved streets would claim, that they had been taxed to pave streets for others and that they were therefore entitled to have the streets in front of their property paved. This would be just, but as the city would be bonded to its legal limit there could be no more paving at least until the bonds were paid off, and by that time the present pavements would be worn out. It would require, to be absolutely fair to all, that every street in the city be paved, and this whether there was anyone living on it to be accommodated or not, for the property owner having paid for others paving would have a right to demand his property be enhanced in value by having the streets in front of it improved. The only solution of the problem is to vote for, and carry all three measures. It will wrong nobody and will compel those owning property on improved streets to pay for the improvements.

There is another phase to the matter and that is the city's future. If these amendments are not passed, in order to meet the debt already incurred would require a greatly increased tax rate, and this would be a serious handicap on the city's growth. It would be a bar to any manufacturing industry being started here, and it would tend to decrease all property values. This latter fact would in turn cause still higher tax rate and this would send property values still lower. The city is at a turning point in its history. If it passes these amendments it will continue to go forward. If it does not pass them it will take the back track and it will be years before it recovers from the blow it has dealt itself.

According to the calendar summer does not begin until the twenty-first of this month, but judging by the thermometer, it began Tuesday. It was either that or the first day of Spring or some other season, for it was the first day of the kind this year. It was a day that made the garden stuff get a move on, and the strawberries get a sunburn on their pale cheeks. At the same time it made the folks who have been growing most about the cold wish it would rain or do something to cool things off. The weatherman sure has some job trying to fix the weather to suit, and he generally fails.

When the Red Cross campaign is over maybe we will hear something about the new bridge and the planking on the railroad bridge. Almost anything said on these subjects will prove interesting.

The colt show at Dufur being over Governor Withcombe is home again.

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EXTREMELY BAD TASTE

It was an exhibition of extremely bad taste for a member of the Russian commission visiting this country to discuss the picketing of the white house by a lot of misguided women, and to commend them for insulting the president of the United States whom they were calling upon at the time. N. A. Besseraboff became an accessory to the deed when he commended the suffragette who carried the insulting banner. The incident shows however the effect ill advised movements, and disloyal sentiments may have, and how far they may reach. The woman bearing the banner probably had no intention of injuring America in the eyes of the world, but only to annoy the president, and if possible, induce him to do something he otherwise would not do. In this case the woman and those with her were using exactly the same tactics practiced by the kaiser when he attempts to conquer the world through terrifying it. It is hoped in the interest of good government the incident is closed with the chief of police forbidding the picketing of the white house. Just now the country has something more important than national suffrage, which can well wait until the people have taken care of the war. It will keep a year or two, and if the militant suffragettes are not squelched now it will remain unsettled indefinitely, for their actions are disgusting people who are friendly to their cause, or rather to that which the sensible women of the country are striving for.

The president of the Chicago board of trade recently said: "Speculation has nothing to do with the price of wheat," and yet yesterday the Chicago market reports show that because the shorts wanted wheat and there was none offered, the price was forced up ten cents. It is high time congress took some steps to stop gamblers juggling with the people's food stuffs. If it does not there will some day be something doing that will put an end to it and the speculators at the same time, and the settlement may include a few derelict congressmen and senators. When a lot of speculators can hit a whole nation below the belt, and force prices above what they are in countries dependent on this for their food, the limit is reached.

Up to noon yesterday five of the seven stripes on the big Red Cross flag at headquarters had been painted in, and there was a starter for the sixth one of \$146. The Marion county quota, excluding Silverton and including Independence and a small section of Polk county is \$43,000. The apportionment is made practically on a per capita basis which means in this case one dollar for each person. Salem has between 15,000 and 18,000 residents and on the per capita basis has raised her allotment, having subscribed \$18,545.35, up to noon yesterday. The indications are her full quota, that is the district's, of \$43,000 will be raised. The response has been generous and with the exception of a few who could well afford to give liberally, has been practically universal.

Miss Lusk, aged 42, teacher of psychology in the public schools of Waukesha, Wisconsin, yesterday shot and killed Mrs. David Roberts with whose husband she was infatuated. She also shot herself twice but may recover. This is a rather strange phase of the "eternal triangle," though the result, the death of some woman in the case, was in conformance with the customary ending of such affairs. She kept moaning at the hospital: "I love him and he is a coward, he left me to suffer." If this is true, and presumably it is, then it is plain she shot the wrong party. The wife was not to blame for her husband's cowardice any more than she was for his monkeying with the affections of the psychological artist. Shooting the other woman and then herself was surely a poor way to punish "the man in the case."

The Red Cross campaign has served to classify our population pretty well, and it has opened the eyes of most of the committee men making the canvas. They have discovered it is like the gentleman who stood on his rights to donate what he pleased to charity, and who remarked: "What I give is nothing to nobody."

King Ferdinand of Bulgaria is to visit the kaiser and ask for his aid as he fears the Greeks may attack him. It will not be long perhaps before Bulgaria knows how it feels to have the other fellow doing the hunting act while it plays the hare.

The "American" delegates to the Stockholm socialists' peace convention are unable to show any credentials or to explain how they got out of America and to Sweden. They are: Boris Reinstein, Max Goldfarb and Dr. Davidovitch. Doesn't listen much like Yankeedom, does it?

Salem has roses enough now to supply half a dozen rose shows such as Portland puts up, and that is the best in the world, and she would have enough left over to supply all the mourners at the kaiser's funeral should he pass away.

The Portland barbers yesterday gave all the receipts of their shops for the day, to the Red Cross. This should enable Portland to secure her quota, though it will perhaps be by a close shave.

Portland has a goddess of liberty for sale. Does this mean she is to cut loose from her liberty bonds?

July promises to be a busy month especially in its first week or two. After the "glorious Fourth," the first event will be the opening of bids for the building of the bridge across the Willamette, July 6, a matter of vast importance to Salem and the country generally, and then July 9th comes the city election and the people's decision as to the city's future. In the meanwhile cherry picking will be on, harvest will commence and everybody will be busy late and early.

Rippling Rhymes

by Walt Mason

THE SPEECHMAKER



They call upon me, now and then, to make a speech on this or that; I rise before my fellowmen, and shoot some wisdom through my hat. A glow of pleasure most men feel when they hand out profound remarks, for every fellow likes to spiel, as every dog enjoys his barks. And ten men out of every nine, go on and on, they like it so, till palsied hearers wilt and pine, and wish they had some eggs to throw. When I began I note the clock, which has all time at its command; I keep on squinting as I talk, and mark the moving minute hand. I watch the clock with baleful eye I stand where I can see its face, and when ten minutes have gone by, I put my tongue back in its place. My lungs would like, like everything, to labor on, but they must cease; I tie my larynx with a string, and put them all in my valise. So I am often asked to rise and thrash the issues of the day, for people know I am too wise to keep it up till they are gray. They know I always watch the clock, and when the proper hour has come, I grab my hat and take a walk, and seal my lips with chewing gum.



SUPPLYING THE WORLD

Better Business will probably take the place of "business as usual." A world demand is being created for the supply of Farm and Factory products. Are YOU prepared to meet OPPORTUNITY? You will find an Account and Connection at the United States National Bank "resources" on the one hand;

"standing" upon the other. Wherever the Red Cross is seen --there is to be found a Friend Indeed. Won't you contribute SOMETHING?

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My Husband and I

By Jane Phelps

FOR HER OWN GOOD

CHAPTER LXXVIII.
The moment Tom came in the next night I knew something had happened. He seemed to me, and was almost impetuously to me, as I have said, Tom had flashes of uncontrollable anger occasionally. I feared he would give way before Peggy, yet I couldn't imagine what it could be about. Then I thought of the butcher. Perhaps he had sent down to Tom's office, or in some way asked him for his bill. Or maybe the modiste had become tired of waiting and sent a dunning letter to the office. But I was kept in suspense until Peggy went out with the Thursdays after dinner. Then Tom said sternly: "Where were you yesterday afternoon?" I was so relieved that I could have laughed. "Out motoring, why?" "Who with?" "Carl Blacklock, Peggy, and Mortimer Collins." "A foursome was it?" he sneered, the veins on his forehead swelling. "Yes, what of it?" I asked calmly, the knowledge I had obtained from Mr. Collins took away any fear of Tom's anger. "Horne, you remember him don't you? He had dinner with us the time we met Crandell?" I nodded. "He saw you out in the country at a road house dancing yesterday. He said he hated to tell me, but that it would do you no good to be seen with a man as well known as Blacklock." "He was very kind--and meddlesome," I said calmly.

"I wasn't meddlesome," Tom declared loudly. "Horne isn't that kind. And he told the truth too. It doesn't do ANY woman good to be seen out under such conditions without her husband, especially a young and pretty one." "Thank you for the compliment," I replied. As Tom grew excited, I became more quiet. "Well, I won't have it! You understand? I WON'T have it!" he almost shouted. "Don't get excited, Tom," I returned. "I've something to say to you. You do as you please. I shall also." "What do you mean?" he rose and stamped back and forth. "First, I mean that you will wake the baby if you aren't careful. Secondly if I say nothing about your going out with Mr. Crandell's private secretary, you have no right to say anything about whom I go with." Tom gaped his surprise. "Who told you I went out with her? Nice business they're in whoever they are!" "It seems to me it must be the same business your friend Horne is engaged in," I told him. "He fairly fumed at that." "He's a man! It's different." "Oh, Tom, be original," I laughed. "That plea is older than Adam. It doesn't work now-a-days." "You'll see whether it will work or not!" and he went into the bedroom and slammed the door.

Calm After the Storm.
I was really rather frightened at the result of our ride; but I determined that I would not let Tom see that I was. I dearly loved Tom, and after I had sat alone a few minutes I began to think about this girl; to wonder if Tom, my Tom, was in love with her; he seemed to care for her. What would I do in such a case? I feared to see him again that night for he would start being cross with me once more. But I couldn't have worried. When Peggy came in I went to bed. He didn't speak to me though I knew he wasn't asleep. As I lay quietly by his side all my love for my handsome boyish husband swept over me; and I leaned over and kissed him softly on the cheek. He seemed not to know, and with a sigh I lay down. Later, however, I felt his arm thrown across me, and once his hand smoothed my hair. We were not alone but two children. Jealous, impatient children it is true; but one love each for the other was real in spite of everything which had, or might happen. So I thought and happily went to sleep. The next morning neither of us referred to the subject of the night before. Tom was quiet, but as he was always hurried mornings, and had little time for talk, I hoped Peggy wouldn't notice. Evidently she didn't, for she wasn't the kind to keep anything to herself. (Monday--A Studio Affair.)

SOCIALISTS COMMIT HARAKIRI

(Mefford Mail Tribune.)

The socialist party has ousted Charles Edwards Russell because he did not resign from the American mission to Russia headed by Elihu Root, of which he was appointed a member by President Wilson, when requested to by socialist party officials.

Mr. Russell is to be congratulated because of his patriotism in placing his country above his party. He is further to be felicitated for having had his relations with an unpatriotic and un-American organization severed.

It will be noticed that the expulsion of Russell comes at a time when he is in Russia upon a government mission and is designed to discredit him with Russian socialists and embarrass the mission and the American government. It is part and parcel of the German propaganda the socialists are engaged in promoting.

The socialist parties of England, France and Germany are loyal to their governments, but the socialist party in America is disloyal to the United States. It is completely in control of the Hillquist, Berger, and other German agents and is being used as an instrument in behalf of Germany. This explains the complete collapse of the party--the desertion of it by all patriotic Americans when the machinery was captured by the German war party, which is financing the socialist and anarchist parties as well as the various peace movements, both real and fake.

At its recent convention at St. Louis, controlled by Hillquist and Berger, treasonable resolutions were adopted pledging the socialist party to:

"Continuous, active and public opposition to the war, through demonstrations, mass petitions and all other means within our power."

"Unyielding opposition to all proposed legislation for military or industrial conscription."

"Should such conscription be forced upon the people we pledge ourselves to continuous efforts for the repeal of such laws and to the support of all mass movements in opposition to conscription."

Yet only a few years ago, this same peace-loving Berger made the following declaration in his Milwaukee newspaper:

"In view of the plutocratic law-making of the present day, it is easy to predict that the safety and hope of this country will finally lie in one direction only--that of a violent and bloody revolution."

"Therefore, I say, each of the 500,000 socialist voters, and of the 2,000,000 workmen who instinctively incline our way, should, besides doing much reading and still more thinking, also have a good rifle and the necessary rounds of ammunition in his home, and be prepared to back up his ballot with his rifle if necessary."

The expression of such sentiments resulted in the abandonment of the party by the Bensons, Gaylards, Simons and other intellectuals--so with only the Germans left, the future of the socialist party in America is of few days and full of trouble.

FAMILY REUNION AT FARM

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Hays, who are enjoying camp life on their ranch at Hite switch, held a family reunion on Sunday, June 17. It was a joint celebration of the children and one grandchild having birthdays in June, and the 17th being Mr. and Mrs. Gable's wedding anniversary. All were present except one son and his wife, H. H. Hays, of Linn county. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hays and son Bryson and little daughter Pauline, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Gable and daughter Lucile, Miss Estella Hays of Ashland, and M. Winn Hays of Ashland.

The day was spent in pleasant talk, and a very beautiful dinner was served at noon. Master Bryson Hays entertained with several well rendered readings. He is studying oratory and expects to be on some chautauqua circuit next summer, which speaks well for a nine-year-old lad.--Hubbard Enterprise.